

California and Western Medicine

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Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—California and Western Medicine has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this journal write to its office requesting a copy of this leaflet.

EDITORIALS

REFERENDUM BALLOTS ON INCORPORATION OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Explanation of Ballots Which Will Be Mailed to You.—Within a few days after the receipt of the July number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, every member of the California Medical Association will receive a ballot with stamped reply envelope addressed to the California Medical Association. Also some explanatory leaflets telling of the action of the House of Delegates at the last annual session at San Diego, wherein it was ordered that a referendum ballot should be taken on the proposed incorporation of the California Medical Association.

The minutes of the May 8, 1929 meeting of the House of Delegates, which were printed in the June issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on page 437, gave a synopsis of the proceedings of the House in relation to the proposed referendum and to the new Constitution and By-Laws which were adopted at that time.

The proposed California Medical Association corporation is to be a nonprofit corporation without capital stock. The form of corporation is one which is permitted under the California statutes and has been used by the San Francisco County Medical Association as a means of best caring for its properties and funds. The incorporation

plan has been most carefully studied by the Council during the last three years, and not only has its endorsement, but at San Diego also received that of the House of Delegates.

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Next Step in the Procedure for Incorporation. What is now wanted and what is needed, in order to best comply with the corporation laws of California, is the endorsement of the members at large.

The minutes and literature to which reference here has been made, and which will be enclosed with the ballot, will explain the details. In this column we can only add that it is our sincere belief that this form of incorporation will amply safeguard, in fullest degree, all the properties and funds of the California Medical Association for all time to come—insofar as carefully constructed laws can so safeguard—and that through such incorporation, the California Medical Association will be in position to develop into a stronger and in every way a better state medical association than would be possible without such incorporation.

* * *

How to Vote If in Favor of Incorporation.—If you are in favor of incorporation, take your ballot and cross out the words “(b) I disapprove and do not consent to”—

Then sign your name and address, and mail promptly to the central office of the Association in the stamped reply envelope which will be enclosed with the ballot.

* * *

Important That Every Member Should Vote.—Please remember that there are certain legal technicalities in all this, and that it is important that every member should vote and mail his or her ballot *promptly*. Do this at once and the duty and obligation will be behind instead of in front of you. Also you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have done your part in laying a broader foundation for future growth of the California Medical Association.

THE BACTERIOPHAGE—VIEWPOINTS OF SCHULTZ OF STANFORD

A Previous Paper on the Bacteriophage.—The October 1927 issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE presented a discussion of “The Bacteriophage—Its Prophylactic and Therapeutic Value—A Review.” The opening sentence of E. W. Schultz of Stanford, author of the article, stated: “The discovery of bacteriophage by d’Herelle (of the Pasteur Institute of Paris) in 1916 marks the beginning of one of the most important epochs of bacteriology, not only because of its theoretical, but probable practical bearing.” . . . “D’Herelle concluded that the phenomenon must be due to an invisible parasite of the bacteria, and he accordingly gave it the name ‘bacteriophage.’”

In his conclusions our Stanford colleague stated: “A review of the literature indicates that the bacteriophage may exercise either a prophy-

lactic or a therapeutic value in certain infectious diseases. . . . Further studies to explain the irregularity of the results are clearly indicated."

The above excerpts of a few pertinent sentences in the presentation made by Schultz call attention to his belief that d'Herelle's discoveries were important. He emphasized also the need of caution before plunging into acceptance of the new agent as a therapeutic measure of great value.

That these words of caution were well spoken is proved by the recent exploitation of bacteriophage products by some of the pharmaceutical houses.

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Importance of the Article on the Bacteriophage: Its Request for Coöperation.—The current issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE prints a paper read by Doctor Schultz at the recent San Diego annual session in which he reemphasizes some of the cautions which he had previously laid down.

The current article, as well as the paper which appeared in the October 1927 issue, are worthy of careful perusal and thought.

These paragraphs which are here printed would call the special attention of the readers of this journal to the footnote of the article in this issue, page 8, in which Doctor Schultz and his co-workers at Stanford invite the readers of this journal who are interested in this subject to pool their efforts, using the Stanford laboratories as a sort of clearing house, in order that more accurate knowledge may be gathered and opinions formed of the real value of what may be an important therapeutic aid in the future. It is an interesting field of investigation and under conservative guidance, should be of value not only to those who accept Doctor Schultz's invitation to coöperate, but to the members of the state medical associations of which this journal is the accredited representative. It is hoped many members of the California, Nevada, and Utah Medical Associations will avail themselves of the opportunity which the invitation of Doctor Schultz makes possible. Future contributions on the subject will be awaited with interest.

"FORD ATTACKS MEDICO ETHICS"

A Recent Newspaper Contribution by Henry Ford.—The caption to these paragraphs is taken from a leading article in a recent Sunday edition of the *Los Angeles Times*. The article in question was one of a series of interviews of Mr. Ford, and was presented under the sponsorship of one of the large newspaper syndicates of the United States.

The auspices under which the interviews were given, and their publication on succeeding Sundays, all indicate that they were duly authorized by the great automobile prince of America, Henry Ford of Detroit. It would seem fair to assume, also, that Mr. Ford spoke deliberately on the different topics selected by him.

The article was no doubt widely read, and its half-truths were probably as thoroughly absorbed

and believed by thousands of lay readers, as they were by Mr. Ford himself when he gave the interview. For it is impossible to make oneself think that Mr. Ford would willingly make untruthful statements. What he said may, therefore, be taken as an expression of his beliefs.

Because of his remarkable achievements in the automotive industry and his originality and initiative in building up one of our country's greatest economic achievements, and because of his interesting personality, and also because of the wide publicity and acceptance with which his opinions are received by many of his fellow citizens, his criticisms of the medical profession may well be given passing consideration by the members of that profession.

* * *

Two Major Impressions from Mr. Ford's Viewpoint.—Two impressions stand out after the interview has been read. One, that Mr. Ford evidently has only a superficial knowledge of the training standards and methods of practice of modern-day practitioners of nonsectarian medicine. Two, that the nonapplicability or irrelevancy of Mr. Ford's remarks and criticisms rest largely upon his somewhat basic assumption of thought which crops out throughout his supposed analysis, namely, that the stresses and strains to which the human animal body can be put, are as firmly fixed and as easily determined as are those of an automobile, a bridge or other inanimate object; and that the exploitation of the conservation, care and repair of that human body should follow the same advertising principles and methods which are in vogue with producers of such inanimate things as automobiles and other manufactured products.

Of course there is nothing new in such fallacies of reasoning. Medical men learn early that Mr. Ford's general viewpoint concerning medical practice is almost universal in modern-day America. So much is this the case that practitioners of medicine must keep themselves constantly on guard to prevent themselves from falling into the same and similar errors of reasoning. It is at all times a great temptation to over-evaluate the success or failure of this, that or the other method of treatment which may rest upon a too limited number of cases or experiences.

For with each human being, the physician's relationship is not with inanimate factors like brick, wood, steel, or mortar, the tensile strength and endurance of each type of which can be calculated to a mathematical nicety, and the types of some of which, according to their formulae, can be produced forever with the same qualitative properties. Instead, in the human animal, physicians are called upon to deal with a living or biologic entity, composed, it is true, of certain major organs and tissues. But each of these in turn is composed of constituent or cell units, so bound up in the strength and weaknesses inherited from ancestors, and so responsive to previous diseases and habits associated with each individual's environment, that microscopes, electrocardiographs, x-ray machines and other means of accessory investigation, estimation and measure-